

## Bus

Due to our bus driver's timetable, on Thursdays the departure time from school will be ten minutes later than usual. The consequences are that the bus will arrive 10-15 minutes later on Thursdays and it is likely that the children will be transported in the large bus.

## Community News

**Rugby League Community Carnival** for 5-12 year olds and parents to be held on Saturday 2 March at the Island Reserve, Otorohanga. Registration: 9.00am, free breakfast, free coaching course, drills & skills, family games & activities. Further info: Gary - 07858 5388 or 021 274 6475.

### WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to Energize for 2013. We hope you all had a wonderful break and are recharged and energised. Watch this space for a weekly nutrition tip to encourage your children and family to make great choices towards maintaining good health.



### FIZZY DRINKS

Fizzy drinks contain lots of sugar which is not good for children's teeth. Fizzy drinks also contain no goodness (vitamins, minerals etc) for growing children.

1 can fizzy drink  
= 10 tsp sugar  
1 600ml bottle fizzy drink  
= 16 tsp sugar



## Board of Trustees

We have 3 major activities this year: Hotel Access Rd school frontage upgrade, Kauri block & student toilets upgrade in April & Triennial School Trustee Elections on May 30. *"The current BOT must ensure sufficient people with a balance of skills, experiences, gender & ethnicity are nominated."* If you are interested in becoming a trustee with the aim of *"Raising Student Achievement"* find out what is involved by talking to Tamae, a current parent trustee (Ben, Gaye, Myke, Alannah) or come along to a BOT meeting. Next meeting is at 5pm 12.3.13.

## What's Coming Up At Waitomo Caves School

|              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 26 Feb-1 Mar | Wellington City Camp           |
| 27 February  | Small Schools Swimming Sports  |
| 28 February  | Hamilton City Excursion        |
| 28 February  | Totara Class sleep-over        |
| 6 March      | COP's Swimming Sports          |
| 8 March      | Waitomo Interschool's Swimming |
| 15 March     | Community Assembly             |
| 21 March     | Year 8 College Experience Day  |
| 23 March     | Waitomo Sports Day fundraiser  |

Mrs Tamae Dimond, Principal ☺



# Newsletter

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Waitomo Caves

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Whaia te ara totika – Make the Right Choice

Term One 2013

Week Three – 22 February

Dear Parents, Caregiver, Whanau and Friends of the School

Tena Koutou Katoa

Thank you to those parents and caregivers who were able to attend our recent parent meeting. Robust discussions took place and it is evident that we all have our children's achievement and success as top priority. Keep an eye on the year planner and please keep in mind that newsletter updates will confirm special events and dates as they arise.

### Wellington City Camp

Twenty-two Year 5 to 8 students will be participating in a city experience camp to Wellington from Tuesday 26 February to Friday 1 March. Thank you Alannah, Rodney, Vickie, Gaye and Pania for joining the group as parent helpers. Children will be involved in educational programmes at Carter Observatory, Te Papa Museum, Matiu/Somes Island, Parliament, Museum of Wellington City and Sea and much more. We will be looking forward to sharing our experiences with you when we return.

### Junior and Middle School City Focus

The Year 1 to 4 students will also be participating in city experiences on Thursday 28 February at the Hamilton Museum. The Year 3 & 4 students will have a camp-out sleepover at school that evening with staff and parents. Notices have been sent home regarding these excursions.



**WAITOMO  
GLOW WORM  
CAVES**  
NEW ZEALAND



• Private Bag 501, Otorohanga.  
• Telephone (07) 878-8227 • Facsimile (07) 878 8858

Proudly Supporting Waitomo Caves School

## **Tryathlon**

Congratulations for your top effort and participation in the Hamilton Weet-Bix Tryathlon on Sunday. Well done Ratapu, James, John, Siân, Blaze, Maddison, Jaide, Karne, Tane, Thomas, Kyah, Max, Georjah, Keely, Arahia, Lilly, Taylor, Elijah and Alex. Nice work Mum's, Dad's and family for getting the children there and involved. Those who haven't paid the registration fee need to do so as soon as possible please.

## **Lunch Time Activities**

If parents are able to be available to run lunch time activities it would be much appreciated. Such activities could involve playing soccer, basketball, long ball, ultimate frisbee and touch with the children. The best times would be from 12.50pm to 1.25pm. Please contact Mrs Dimond if you would be available any day of the week.

## **Swimming Sports**

Please note Small Schools Swimming Sports will be held on Wednesday 27 February starting at 10.00am. This swimming event involves all Year 3 and 4 students. We will need to assemble at the Otorohanga Pool by 9.45am on Wednesday morning. We require parental support therefore could parents please return their pink slips to indicate if they are available to help with transport and third placings. All Year 3 students and some Year 4's will be finished by 12.00pm. They will need to be returned to school and join Ms Easton's special activities for the afternoon.

On Wednesday 6 March our strongest swimmers from Year 4 to 8 will compete at the COP's swimming sports. Again we will need help with transport so students can assemble at the Otorohanga Pool by 9.45am for a 10.00am start.

Following that on Friday 8 March, again our strongest swimmers from Year 4 to 8 will compete at the Waitomo Interschool's Swimming Sports held in Te Kuiti. If your child is involved a pink notice will come home on Monday 4 March after camp.

## **Head Lice**

Please be aware that there are head lice within our school environment. It is not something transferred in the pool. The chlorine and exposure to air kills head lice as they prefer warm, moist areas with no chemicals. Please read the accompanying information brochure.

## **Touch**

Ben Draper and Te Kuiti Sports co-ordinators are promoting touch rugby and wish to develop a six week tournament based on enough interest from schools. It would begin on Thursday 7 March and most likely be Thursday's afterschool for the remainder of the term. Grades are mixed (boys and girls) and would consist of Years 0-4, Years 5-6 and Years 7-8. There would be a small subscription fee. Going on the strong parental support and short notice I suggest we sort some teams of those who are interested and then source some coaches. There is a minimum of seven per team with at least one girl. Please complete the pink form.

## **Te Maunga Bikes n Trikes**

In November last year we were recipients of \$250 for sports equipment from ASB. The money has been spent on an area of need such as athletics equipment. We now have the correct weights and sizes for Waikato Athletics standards for discus, shot put, as well as relay batons and athletic measuring devices suitable for 5 year to 12 year olds.

## **Celebrating Student Achievement**

Key targets have been set as part of our Strategic Planning to raise student achievement in relation to the national standards in reading, writing and maths. After end of year assessments in 2012 for literacy and numeracy student data shows pleasing results in both areas. Children have made excellent progress towards developing their knowledge and skills within the classroom programmes.

All students are working towards achieving the National Standards in reading. 73% of our students are reading at or above their chronological reading age.

All students are working hard towards achieving the National Standards in written language. 68% of our students are writing at or above the writing standard for their year level. Data also shows that 68% of our Maori students are achieving at or above their expected literacy level for their age in writing.

All students are working towards achieving the National Standards in maths. 70% of our students are working at or above their expected numeracy level for their age in mathematics.

Targets for 2013 within literacy and numeracy continue to strengthen student achievement in all areas in relation for the national standards. Congratulations students, wonderful learning and well done on working well to succeed!